

House of Student Representatives

99th Session

Texas Christian University

H.B. 99-06 _____

Introduced By:

Mariana Skertchly
Jordan Mazurek

Action Taken : Failed in Committee

Certified By:

Speaker of the House

Date: _____

Duly Approved:

Student Body President

1

“A Bill to Reform Intercom’s Structure”

2 Whereas: Intercom is a concentrated group of student leaders from diverse areas of
3 campus that collectively represent a multitude of student perspectives
4 which come together, in a think-tank like format, to fulfill the primary
5 functions of:

6 i. Serving as guides and role models in times of emergency or
7 crisis to the entire Student Body, and

8 ii. Disseminating information from the administration directly
9 to the umbrella of respective organizations each member
10 represents during such times of emergency or crisis, and

11 iii. Finding and developing issues that are the most pressing
12 concerns of the Student Body which are to be presented to
13 the Board of Trustees’ Student Relations Committee, and

14 Whereas: As a distinctly collaborative body Intercom hosts all of its meetings in an
15 open-dialogue format in which each student leader has equal right to speak
16 from the perspective of their constituents, and

17 Whereas: The meetings are primarily self-guided by the group as a whole as well as
18 by the Faculty Advisors, and

19 Whereas: This think-tank, in order to function at its greatest level of accuracy in
20 discussing the issues that affect the Student Body to the Board of Trustees,
21 must maintain an accurate representation of the diverse and predominate
22 perspectives on campus whether they be Greek Life, Honors College,
23 Inclusiveness and Intercultural Services, or others, and

24 Whereas: The President of the Student Body has served historically in a largely
25 ceremonial role as Chair of Intercom, and

26 Whereas: Each member of Intercom, including the President, has historically held
27 equal amount of input and power in determining what groups of students
28 should and should not be represented on Intercom collectively, and

29 Whereas: In the past two semesters, during which time both the primary advisor for
30 Intercom, the Vice-Chancellor of Student Affairs, and the Student Body
31 President have experienced simultaneous changes in staffing, the

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32 ceremonial role of Chair has been misinterpreted as a role in which the
33 Student Body President has sole authority on deciding which perspectives
34 of the Student Body should, and should not be represented on Intercom,
35 and

36 Whereas: When the power to determine what groups perspectives do and do not
37 have the right to be a part of Intercom, and by extension the Board of
38 Trustees, is concentrated in a single individual, that places every group on
39 campus in danger of their perspective being taken away by the particular
40 preferences of said individual, and

41 Whereas: The exercise of this sole authority has led to unrest upon campus both
42 broadly and amongst groups lacking equal representation, leading to
43 feelings of division and inequality within the TCU Community that
44 weakens said community, and

45 Whereas: The concentration of power in a single position is counter to the ideals of
46 dialogue and collaborative decision making upon which the group was
47 founded, and

48 Whereas: The group, comprising the most seasoned student leaders on campus as
49 well as their faculty advisors, is fully capable of conducting a succinct and
50 efficient meeting without the ceremonial role of the Chair, and

51 Whereas: The Student Body President serves an extremely important and vital role
52 in representing the Student Body and should retain every right to represent
53 that perspective in Intercom and to the Board of Trustees. However, the
54 President, being an individual, should not retain the power of sole
55 authority over what groups should be represented within Intercom and
56 which should not, and

57 Whereas: Based upon Intercoms primary functions previously laid out, the group has
58 historically utilized a *de facto* collaborative approach to problem solving
59 to ensure all members of Intercom make decisions together, that all
60 perspectives are given equal weight, and that the group functions as a
61 cohesive whole composed from many diverse parts, therefore

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64 Let it be enacted by the House of Student Representatives at Texas Christian University:

65 (1) Title 3, Chapter 2, section 201, subsection (a), points (i) and (ii) of the
66 Student Body Code read as follows:

67 **§201 Duties**

68 (a) The President shall have the following powers and duties:

69 (i) Chair the meetings of the Cabinet;

70 (ii) Represent the student body at meetings of Intercom;

71

72 (2) Current points (ii) through (xiii) will be renumbered (iii) through (xiv).

73 C.C.: Brett Phillips (Advisor), Kim Turner (Advisor) Dr. Kathy Cavins-Tull (Vice-
74 Chancellor of Student Affairs), Dr. Susan Adams (Associate Vice-Chancellor of Student
75 Affairs and Dean of Campus Life), Dr. Barbara Brown Herman (Associate Vice-
76 Chancellor of Student Affairs and Dean of Student Development), SGA Cabinet, Pearce
77 Edwards, Marisol Sigala, Meg Mathews, Will Hopper, Brandon Corcoran, Kayla
78 Jarzombek, Lisa Allen, Srijan Lacoul, Timothy Cason, Joshua Simpson, Brent Folan